

and policymakers alike is critical to our security. Congress must work to improve information sharing, and we owe it to the American people to make sure that safeguards remain in place to ensure that sensitive personal information is not tossed around inappropriately.

MAYORS SUPPORT THE TERRORIST APPREHENSION AND RECORD RETENTION ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our Nation's gun safety laws do not go far enough to protect our families and communities and may leave us vulnerable to an attack by terrorists using military style firearms legally purchased within our own borders. Current law not only allows a known or suspected terrorist to buy firearms in the U.S., it also requires that records pertaining to the sale be destroyed within a day of the purchase. Congress should take proactive steps to address these shortfalls in our gun safety laws.

Federal law requires that anyone seeking to purchase or obtain a permit to possess, acquire, or carry firearms undergo a background check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. This process requires the applicant to provide a variety of personal information including name, date of birth, current residence, and country of citizenship which is then compared with data in the NICS system to determine whether or not the person is prohibited by law from receiving or possessing firearms. Disqualifying criteria includes such things as felony convictions and fugitive or illegal alien status.

As part of the background check, applicants are also checked against known terrorist watch lists. However, under current law, membership in a known terrorist organization does not automatically disqualify an applicant from receiving or possessing a firearm. In cases where a positive match is made, federal authorities search for other disqualifying information. If no disqualifying information can be found within three business days, the transaction is permitted to continue. In addition, all records pertaining to a positive match of an applicant to a terrorist watch list must, under current law, be destroyed within 24 hours if no disqualifying information is found.

I have cosponsored the Terrorist Apprehension Record Retention Act introduced by Senator LAUTENBERG. This bill would require that in cases where an NICS background check turns up a valid match to a terrorist watch list, all records pertaining to the transaction be retained for ten years. In addition, the bill requires that all NICS information be shared with appropriate federal and state counterterrorism officials anytime an individual on a terrorist watch list attempts to buy a firearm. This is only common sense.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, which represents some 1,183 cities

around the country, adopted a resolution strongly supporting the Terrorist Apprehension and Record Retention Act at their 2005 annual meeting. The resolution cites a report by the General Accountability Office which found that from February 3, 2004 through June 30, 2004, a total of 44 firearm purchase attempts were made by individuals designated as known or suspected terrorists by the federal government. This is an alarming statistic. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the resolution adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE TERRORIST APPREHENSION AND RECORD RETENTION (TARR) ACT

Whereas, neither suspected nor actual membership in a terrorist organization by itself prohibits a person from owning a gun under current law; and

Whereas, beginning in November of 2003, the U.S. Department of Justice directed the FBI to revise its procedures to better ensure that suspected members of terrorist organizations who have disqualifying factors do not receive firearms in violation of the law by automatically delaying responses to provide more time to check data; and

Whereas, in January of 2005, the U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) released a report entitled, "Gun Control and Terrorism: FBI Could Better Manage Firearm-Related Background Checks Involving Terrorist Watch List Records"; and

Whereas, that report found that from February 3 through June 30, 2004, a total of 44 firearm related background checks handled by the FBI and state agencies resulted in valid matches with terrorist watch records, and of this total 35 transactions were allowed to proceed because the checks found no prohibiting information, such as felony convictions, illegal immigrant status, or other disqualifying factors; and

Whereas, the report states, "GAO recommends that the Attorney General (1) clarify procedures to ensure that the maximum amount of allowable information from these background checks is consistently shared with counterterrorism officials and (2) either strengthen the FBI's oversight of state agencies or have the FBI centrally manage all valid match background checks. The Department of Justice agreed."; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives entitled the "Terrorist Apprehension and Record Retention (TARR) Act"; and

Whereas, the TARR Act amends the Federal criminal code to provide that if the national criminal background check system indicates that a person attempting to purchase a firearm or applying for a State permit to possess, acquire, or carry a firearm is identified as a known or suspected member of a terrorist organization in records maintained by the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security, including the violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File or records maintained by the Intelligence Community: (1) all information related to the prospective transaction shall be automatically and immediately transmitted to the appropriate Federal and State counterterrorism officials, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); (2) the FBI shall coordinate the response; and (3) all records generated in the course of the check that are obtained by Federal and State officials shall be retained for at least ten years. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the Terrorist Apprehension and Record Retention Act (TARR), and urges that it be passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of preserving records of gun purchases by known terrorists and the important role they could potentially play in uncovering a terrorist attack before it is carried out. We owe it to all Americans in this era of heightened risk of terrorist attack to do all we can to protect their safety.

INTEGRITY IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for the Integrity in Professional Sports Act, S. 1960. I am deeply troubled by the accounts of children and professional athletes who use anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancement drugs. The effects of taking steroids are not only physiological, but psychological. Experts have testified before Congress that steroid use creates an increased propensity for aggressive and sometimes criminal behavior. It is clear to me that the use of performance enhancing drugs reveals a number of problems, one of which is a problem of character.

As many of my colleagues may know, for the past 12 years, I have been involved in a grassroots program to promote character education for our country's children. The Character Counts program is an important grassroots effort that I am proud to have supported. Most recently, on October 7, 2005, 28 Senators joined Senator Christopher Dodd and I in sponsoring a resolution to designate "National Character Counts Week." The program promotes six fundamental and universal pillars of good character. Those are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. A central premise of the Character Counts program has held that children across the country depend on social institutions and leaders for the development of good character. For children, these leaders and role models are often found on the rosters of professional sports teams. When our children see professional athletes engaging in the use of steroids, they begin to question the importance of pillars such as trustworthiness, responsibility, and fairness.

Speaking as a former baseball pitcher for the University of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Dukes, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of trustworthiness and fairness in sportsmanship. As athletes, my teammates and I understood that the integrity of the game depended on knowledge that your competitors brought no advantage other than talent and hard work to the playing field. To think that your competitors used steroids to enhance their athletic performance would mean that the game itself was compromised.

S. 1960 is important legislation because it makes clear that all athletes participating in professional sports will be held to the same standards of fair play. By instituting minimum standards for the testing of steroids, professional sports teams and professional athletes can regain the respect and trust of the American people. It is important that we hold adults to the same standards of character as we do our children. Young people look up to professional athletes as role models. We owe it to them to make sure that adults behave according to the same standards of trustworthiness, fairness, and respect.

VETERANS DAY 2005

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today, we as Americans gather to honor all those who served, fought and sacrificed to defend our Nation throughout its history.

During the 229 year history of our Nation, brave Americans have answered the call to defend their country's freedom and the freedom of people around the globe. Today, as in the past, our servicemen and women continue to embrace these twin goals.

I encourage my fellow New Mexicans and all Americans to take a few moments to remember and honor the gallant men and women of our Armed Forces past and present.

New Mexicans have a long distinguished history of military service. During the Spanish American War New Mexico guardsmen formed the bulk of the 2nd Squadron of the 1st Cavalry Regiment which served with Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at the battle of San Juan Hill. When the United States entered the First World War, New Mexicans of the 1st Infantry Regiment served with the 40th Infantry Division in France. While participating in the Italian campaign of the Second World War, New Mexicans of the 104th Tank Destroyer battalion were awarded 8 Silver Stars, 60 Bronze Stars, and 135 Purple Hearts. Of course no one will forget the contribution to final victory the Navajos from our State made as "code talkers" or the bravery of the "New Mexico Brigade" in the Philippines. In the history of our Nation New Mexicans have served with great distinction from the swamps of Cuba, to the jungles of Vietnam and the deserts of Iraq.

It is important that we never forget the sacrifice and dedication of these Americans. They left behind the comfort of home, family and friends to defend our country and its countless blessings. For this, many have paid an immense price, emotionally and physically, some enduring years of captivity and suffering, some never to return home. We Americans owe all that we have to these men and women. No praise or honor will ever be too great for these individuals.

The service of veterans to our country has never ended with their depart-

ture from the Armed Forces. They have enriched every community in which they reside with their strength of character, hard work and devotion to family. For this we must also be grateful.

Since 9/11, the men and women of our Armed Forces have been called away from home, and are today furthering the cause of freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan and all over the globe. Many of these individuals are National Guardsmen like the members of the 515th Corps Support Battalion that recently returned from Iraq and the servicemen and women from Holloman, Kirtland, and Cannon Air Force bases. They serve with the same courage and commitment shown by Americans of generations past and they, too, deserve our thoughts and prayers. May our United States continue to be blessed and may America forever remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN WHICH WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12170 ON NOVEMBER 14, 1979—PM 30

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Iran emergency declared by Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12, 2004 (69 FR 65513).

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2005.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 9, 2005.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3770. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, as the "Grant W. Green Post Office Building".

H.R. 3825. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Trumbull Drive in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Clayton J. Smith Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4053. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 545 North Rimsdale Avenue in Covina, California, as the "Lillian Kinkella Keil Post Office".

At 3:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 2419 making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill H.R. 2862 making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

At 5:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 3199 to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the House bill (except section 132) and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BERMAN,